

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05727 310450Z

11
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 SAM-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /107 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5648
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA
SUBJECT: ROK REACTION TO KIMURA AUGUST 29 STATEMENT

1. ROK PRESS HAS GIVEN ATTENTION BOTH TO FONMIN KIMURA'S AUGUST 29 REMARK TO DIET THAT JAPAN SEES NO THREAT TO ROK FROM NORTH KOREA AND TO ROKG REACTION TO KIMURA STATEMENT. PRESS REPORTS THAT LEADERS OF ALL MAJOR PARTIES VOICED CRITICISM AUGUST 30, CALLING KIMURA'S COMMENT REGRETTABLE AND INAPPROPRIATE AND SAYING IT SHOWS JAPANESE IGNORANCE OF TRUE SITUATION OF KOREAN PENINSULA.

2. ENGLISH LANGUAGE KOREA TIMES AUGUST 31 CARRIES EDITORIAL SAYING KIMURA'S DIET TESTIMONY REVEALS NEW APPROACH TO KOREAN SITUATION BY JAPAN, WHICH HAS REVERSED ITS POSITION AND "IS GOING TO WOO THE NORTH KOREAN REGIME." CALLING KIMURA'S REMARKS EXTREMELY DISPLEASING, TIMES SAYS IT APPEARS THAT JAPAN FEELS NO SENSE OF REMORSE OVER AUGUST 15 INCIDENT, BESIDES NOT BEING READY TO ASSUME MORAL OR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY.

3. PRESS AUGUST 31 REPORTS WITHOUT COMMENT BOTH KIMURA'S "CLARIFICATION" TO JAPANESE PRESS AND HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 05727 310450Z

LATER REMARKS TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB REPEAT-

ING HIS VIEW THAT THERE IS NO NORTH KOREAN THREAT.
PRESS STORIES INCLUDED IN MAJOR COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT
PARK'S AUGUST 30 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR USHIROKU.
ERICSON

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